

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated February 8, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Applicants have canceled Claims 1-15, 18, and 19 without prejudice and requests allowance and issuance of allowed Claims 16 and 17. A continuation application and preliminary amendment, directed to the subject matter covered by the cancelled claims, will be filed after receipt of a notice of allowance to continue the prosecution of the canceled claims.

This amendment places the instant application in condition for immediate allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By Gregory L. Thorne  
Gregory L. Thorne, Reg. No. 39,398  
Senior Patent Counsel  
(914) 333-9665  
March 22, 2005